

Raw News



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Imagining a different world

Toronto Social Forum, then World Social Forum in Brazil

by John Smith
article ID # 14148

In Toronto, the next three months will see three public Social Forums taking place, the first on January 11 at Ryerson's Jorgenson Hall. These events are both lead-up and follow-up to the World Social Forum being held at the end of January in Brazil.

At the Toronto events, people will get together in an open, interactive educational space to share information, dialogue and discussion across sectors, campaigns and issues, and to explore exciting local initiatives and alternatives to corporate-led globalization.

The concept is growing; similar regional forums have already been held in Quebec City and Victoria B.C., as well as throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Ultimately, activists from all regions will come together at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, this January 23-28, seeking unity of vision in resistance to the dominant global corporate agenda.

Delegates from Toronto will take ideas from the January 11 forum to Brazil. Called the 'globalization of hope,' the first World Social Forum was held in 2001, also in Porto Alegre. This year's WSF is the third installment of the growing event, with attendance expected to reach 100,000. The timing of the event parallels that of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland. Far from coincidence, the WSF is positioned with the aim of using media consciousness to openly question the initiatives of the dominant institutions in attendance at the business-centered forum at Davos.

Toronto Social Forum

Alternatives to corporate-led globalization

Saturday, January 11, 2003

Starts: 8.30 am

Ryerson University, Jorgenson Hall

(Dundas subway stop

East of Yonge, south of Gerrard)

More info / registration: tsf@ryerson.ca

www.torontosocialforum.ca

A second Toronto forum is planned for February 15, where participants from the World Social Forum can share their global experience with Toronto-based activists and the public. This leads up to a larger three-day forum to be held March 28-30. This third event is a "teach-in," encouraging broad participation characterized by the diversity of Toronto and area. It will be informed by the World Social Forum, but will be an autonomous process geared to educational activity promoting social justice movements in the Toronto context.

Organizers of the Toronto events stress that these are 'People's Forums' — even the organizing itself is a participatory, democratic process, open to anyone interested in alternatives to corporate globalization. All are invited to join the discussion of issues on their minds and to share ideas for making the city, and our world, more liveable and sustainable.

OCAP members go to court

Heavy charges from Queen's Park police riot of June 15 2000

by Kevin Smith
see article ID # 14126

Three members of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) — John Clarke, Gaetan Heroux and Stefan Pilipa — will appear in a Toronto courtroom beginning on January 13, 2003, charged with 'participating in a riot,' 'counseling to participate in a riot,' and 'counseling to assault police.' These charges are being laid for their participation in the June 15, 2000 anti-poverty demonstration at Queen's Park. Each charge involves potential jail terms of between two and five years.

On June 15, 2000, OCAP led 1500 people to Queen's Park to protest Tory cuts to social programs. Among the marchers was a delegation of poor and homeless people de-

manding the right to address the legislature. After their request to address the legislature was refused, an angry confrontation occurred between demonstrators and riot police. In the aftermath, police laid hundreds of charges against 45 protesters.

OCAP and allies are calling for "all those committed to social justice and the rights of political protest to join the Queen's Park (Police) Riot Defence Campaign as it organizes petitions, rallies and press conferences in support of these defendants. We urge you to add your name to the campaign letter now. If we can contribute to the acquittal of these activists, we will have struck a blow for social justice everywhere." You can add your name or find out more at www.ocap.ca

World Social Forum

Porto Alegre, Brazil — January 23 to 28

Official website:

www.forumsocialmundial.org.br

Tune in for coverage during the event:

www.indymedia.org

**decentralized distribution:
copy, distribute, post**

Grassy Narrows residents vow to continue blockade

Protecting Customary Lands from Abitibi clearcutting

Thunder Bay IMC
December 18, 2002

The long-threatened blockade of a logging road just north of the Grassy Narrows First Nation Reserve remains strong and support is growing. The reserve is located 75 km north of Kenora in Northwestern Ontario.

Between 10 and 30 people are camped out at the main blockade at any one time, and there has been increasing support from other First Nations Communities and non-Native people.



First Nations Peacekeepers (Warrior's Society) from all over Canada are also present in order to ensure the safety of local people and defend Grassy Narrows Customary Lands from the saws of Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) also has a contingent present in order to minimize the risk of violence during confrontations as well as protest what one CPT staff called "the violence of clear-cutting being inflicted on the local population."

As trucks continue to be turned away, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has requested to meet with protestors in order to clarify their demands. Many on the blockade are fed up after tens of years of concessions to the forest industry and the MNR and vow to continue the blockade until they are satisfied that a truly sustainable forest management plan will be enforced. Currently there is only one MNR compliance officer to monitor infractions over the entire Kenora District.

Residents have begun to use the tactic of roving blockades, because logging trucks belonging to Abitibi's contractors have been de-



touring around the main blockade using other roads. The fast by Joe Fobister, begun mainly for spiritual reasons, has ended due to illness. He has vowed to begin again when he regains his strength. Tuesday saw the gathering of all Chiefs from Treaty #3 territory. This is an area stretching from just west of Lake Superior, to just beyond the Manitoba border 700km to the west. The Chiefs met in a roundhouse specially constructed by protestors at the site of the blockade to deliberate on the situation at Grassy Narrows and come up with a plan of action.

Further coverage available at the Thunder Bay IMC website — thunderbay.indymedia.org

IMC Ontario gearing up for 2003

On November 26, several Ontario Independent Media Centre volunteers met to discuss key issues for the Ontario IMC: how to build and strengthen the IMC collective as a whole, and how to ensure our editorial processes are open and accountable.

The website has been improved to be more transparent in how it is run and how people can get involved. The more people who become involved with this volunteer organization, the more effective the collective will become at providing an accessible, accountable media system that can be used by all.

Areas where people can become involved: content creation; the editorial collective; special events; promotion and outreach; skill-building and empowerment; and more.

IMC organization occurs on email lists — subscribe to one or more at lists.indymedia.org or email ontario@indymedia.org

Newsire stories from Ontario.indymedia.org:

(type in the article ID number to view the article)

Articles

- 14106: Summary of imc-ontario-editorial list discussion for December
- 14105: Editor of The ACTivist Magazine starts 18-day fast against war in Iraq
- 14075: Al-Jazeera news network to launch English web site early in 2003
- 14000: Supreme Court rules on Gosselin case, welfare rights

Audio reports

- 13962: Jaggi Singh from Palestine, Dec. 20
- 13959: Kristen Ess from Palestine, Dec. 20
- 13952: Montreal Dec. 18 assembly on fighting the criminalisation of social movements

Upcoming

Cross-Canada Day to Oppose War on Iraq
January 18-19

Contact: (416) 588-5555, cpa@web.ca
Website: www.acp-cpa.ca
Toronto: 18th, 12 noon Nathan Phillips Sq

Pan-Canadian Student Anti-War
Conference, January 30 to February 2
Location: University of Toronto
Contact: (416) 533-6026
saswi2003@yahoo.ca
Website: www.project3media.com/iraq/

Mass Silent Sit-in to Protest the Unspeakable
Atrocity of War, February 14
Location: War Department, Ottawa
Buses from different cities on February 13
Contact: tasc@web.ca
Toronto (416) 651-5800
Hamilton (905) 526-7982, 627-2696
Ottawa (613) 237-0730
Windsor (519) 258-1555